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Application No. 10/716,597 -- Amendment filed March 18, 2005

REMARKS

16 claims remain in the case.

Reconsideration of this Application and entry of the foregoing amendments are requested. Independent Claims 1, 7, 13 and 16 have been amended in view of the Office Action and to better define what the Applicants consider their invention, as fully supported by an enabling disclosure. In particular Claims 1, 7, 13 and 16 have been amended to further comprise a pair of elongate depressions in the bottom surface of the ski positioned on either side of the central keel. Claims 1, 7 and 13 have also been amended such that the depressions define a ground clearance in the vicinity of the central keel. Support for these amendments can be found, for example, at page 13, lines 5 through 20, page 14, lines 7 through 11, page 16, line 22 through page 17, line 9, Figures 3 through 5, and in the claims as originally filed. The other claims have been amended correspondingly in light of the amendments to Claims 1, 7, 13 and 16.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 2, 4 through 8, 10 through 13, and 16 through 18 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Simmons in view of Fulsom and therefore not in conformance with 35 USC §103(a).

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims as amended traverse the rejection as follows. Simmons discloses a ski for a snowmobile comprising a central channel for increasing the flow of snow under the bottom of the ski through a gliding channel and pair of two keels disposed on either side of the channel. Fulsom for its part discloses a snow ski board comprised of an elongate planar body and two or three elongate runners. Referring to Figure

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5 it is apparent that two of the runners are located towards a front end of the planar body on either side of a body axis and the third runner is located towards a rear end of the planar body in line with the body axis. However, neither Simmons or Fulsom taken alone or together disclose elongate depressions in the bottom surface of the ski positioned on either side of the central keel. As a result, Applicant submits that Claims 1, 7, 13 and 16 are not obvious over Simmons in view of Fulsom and therefore in conformance with 35 USC § 103(a). As the remaining Claims 2, 4 through 6, 8, 10 through 12, and 17 through 18 all depend from Claims 1, 7, 13 and 16, it is respectfully submitted that they, too, in conformance with 35 USC § 103(a).

Claims 1 through 13, and 16 through 18 have been rejected by the Examiner as being unpatentable over Simmons in view of Lavecchia and therefore not in conformance with 35 USC §103(a). Lavecchia describes a sporting device comprised of an oblong plate and a series of runners or keels on an under surface of the plate. Applicant submits that neither Simmons nor Lavecchia taken alone or together disclose elongate depressions in the bottom surface of the ski positioned on either side of the central keel. As a result, Applicant submits that Claims 1, 7, 13 and 16 are not obvious over Simmons in view of Lavecchia and therefore in conformance with 35 USC §103(a). As Claims 2 through 6, 8 through 12 and 17 and 18 all depend from Claims 1, 7, 13 and 16 it is respectfully submitted that they, too, in conformance with 35 USC §103(a).

Claims 14 and 15 have been rejected by the Examiner as being unpatentable over Simmons and Lavecchia as applied to Claims 10 through 13 and further in view of Cormican and therefore not in conformance with 35 USC §103(a). In light of Applicant's arguments above regarding the non-obvious nature of Claims 10 through 13, it is submitted that Claims 14 and 15 and are also non-obvious, and therefore in conformance with 35 USC § 103(a).

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In light of the above it is submitted that all claims are non-obvious in light of the prior art and therefore allowable claims.

The rejections of the original claims are believed to have been overcome by the present remarks and the introduction of new claims. From the foregoing, further and favourable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order, and such an action is earnestly solicited.

Authorization is hereby given to charge deposit account no. 07-1742 for any deficiencies or overages in connection with this response.

Respectfully submitted,

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